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FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION OIL SANDS PROJECT ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALIZATION

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(OTTAWA, MAY 7, 2007) - New regulations created under the *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act* (FNCIDA) will allow on reserve oil sands development to occur at Fort McKay First Nation. An agreement among the Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta and Fort McKay First Nation provides a comprehensive framework that ensures the project will meet provincial environmental, health, safety and operational standards.

"This is an important milestone for the Fort McKay First Nation, one that puts them in a better position to expand their economy," stated the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. "This New Government's goal is to support economic development in First Nation communities and to create certainty for industry partners pursuing projects on reserve land. I salute the efforts of all those involved."

To ensure a uniform application of regulatory enforcement, the Province of Alberta has agreed to administer and enforce the regulations on behalf of the Government of Canada. The details of this process are outlined in a trilateral agreement among the Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta and Fort McKay First Nation.

"FNCIDA has provided the framework that allows our First Nation to adopt oil sands regulations on reserve," said Jim Boucher, Chief of the Fort McKay First Nation. "This puts Fort McKay on a level playing field with industry partners and establishes the path to develop large scale commercial projects."

The *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act* was developed to address the regulatory gap that First Nations and their industry partners face when pursuing complex commercial and industrial development projects on reserve lands. The goal of the Act is to support economic development in First Nation communities and to create certainty for industry partners when pursuing projects on reserve land.

The Act was introduced into the House of Commons on November 2nd, 2005 and received Royal Assent on November 28, 2005. These specific regulations were approved by the Governor-in-Council on April 19, 2007.

The regulations are available for viewing in the *Canada Gazette* ([external link, opens a new window](#)) .

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